

Not Rated

No Archive Warnings Apply

Gen

LEGO Ninjago

Lloyd Garmadon & Kai

Lloyd Garmadon

Kai (Ninjago)

The ninja (Mentioned)

Nya (Ninjago)

Jay Walker

Cole (Ninjago)

Zane (Ninjago)

P.I.X.A.L. (Ninjago)

Big Brother Kai (Ninjago)

Father-Son Relationship

Fluff and Angst

Parental Kai

English

And there you were

Cherry_dynamite

Summary:

Lloyd's life is officially over.

He will never recover from such humiliation.

Please just let him die in peace.

(Or, Lloyd accidentally calls Kai dad, chaos ensues)

This fic was based mostly on could be canon "Splinter in the blind mans eye", and it was also heavily inspired by a fic titled "You Give Me The Strength I Need (to Cry) by fruitcasket, here on ao3
-seriously, it's amazing, go read it.

Notes:

(See the end of the work for notes (#work_endnotes).)

Chapter 1 (<http://archiveofourown.org/works/39483225/chapters/98822580>): **The end of all things (according to Lloyd anyway)**

Lloyd's life is officially over.

He will never recover from such humiliation.

Please just let him die in peace.

And no, he wasn't being overly dramatic. Really, he wasn't.

With great effort, Lloyd rolled over in bed, buried his face into a pillow, and let out a muffled scream.

He could still feel his face and ears turn red with embarrassment, even though the mortifying incident happened a whole- he quickly checked the clock- four hours ago.

Kai had just got back from getting groceries, while the others were still at Borg's tower (at the man's insistence to investigate a "suspicious employee", though Lloyd knew it was probably to show off some new invention as well, and also, to see Pixa again.)

The only reason Lloyd did not attend with them, was because of a stupid leg wound. It wasn't even serious. Not even a stab wound, just a graze of a knife.

Still, the others forbid him to go. He wanted to protest, but with Kai looming over him with that look™, he had no choice but to stay.

At least Kai volunteered to stay behind to keep Lloyd company, so it wasn't too bad. But still, bummer.

And so, him and Kai played video games for some time, but later, they wanted something to eat, and Lloyd really, really wanted the pillow mint candy.

There wasn't any in the monastery, curse his luck.

Lloyd practically had to beg Kai to go buy it for him, assuring him that yes, I will be careful, no I will not die, and no, I will not disappear under mysterious circumstances.

Although grudgingly, Kai left to get some groceries.

"Hey kid, I'm back! and before you start, yes I did get you candy." Kai yelled out, before shrugging off his jacket, already feeling better inside the warm halls of the monastery, and near his little brother.

He didn't want to leave Lloyd on his own, especially with a still healing leg, but what could he do other than comply, when Lloyd used his 'sunshine child' expression, big smile, with crinkled eyes and everything.

It was one of Kai's biggest weaknesses.

He heard Lloyd let out a 'Yessss' and the sound of him scrambling off the couch in the living room, "Whach out for that leg!" He yelled.

"I am!" "Uh huh, you sure are bud."

Lloyd came down the hallway leading to the kitchen, where Kai was already putting away the groceries in the cabinets.

With his back turned, he threw the candy bag at Lloyd. "Here ya go kid, don't eat it all in one sitting,"

He caught it, "hell yeah, thanks dad!"

Only after the sound of Kai choking on air and his head hitting the cabinet above him, did Lloyd realize what just left his traitorous mouth.

Lloyd whipped around, and sprinting down the hall towards his room with a "okayseeYaLATER GOODBYE-"

With the door slammed shut, he was gone.

Admittedly, it took an embarrassingly long moment for Kai to recover.

His head hurt all little, but he paid it no mind.

'Thanks dad-'

His chest felt a little tight. And his eyes were starting to burn.

He was not tearing up. Not yet anyway. Nuh Nuh.

Kai covered his eyes, choking down a sound between a snort and a sob, as a strong feeling of Deja Vu hit him.

It was just like the time Nya called him dad.

Or the other time she called him mom.

That bittersweet feeling of being addressed as a parent, in place of someone who should have been there instead, but weren't.

It would always sadden Kai a little when Nya referred to him as such.

He wasn't a parent. Not in the traditional sense.

But he would be damned if he was going to be anything less. He owed Nya that much.

The sadness upon being addressed as a parent, or the times when Nya would give him a mother's day card, or a father's day gift, never really left.

Instead, it quickly got overshadowed by the amount of love and affection he would experience in those moments.

And here Kai was, years later, no longer a scared and anxious child, but a grown man, feeling the exact same amount of adoration for his little brother.

Kai laughed, a quiet, choked sound.

He wanted to follow Lloyd, to assure him it's okay, to say things he often keeps hidden, deep down, inside his heart-but he knew from experience, confronting embarrassed teenagers right away was a bad idea.

He'll just have to wait a little bit.

Chapter 2 (<http://archiveofourown.org/works/39483225/chapters/99057315>): **Cold feet**

Summary:

Kai being an anxious bean, the others are confused ™

Notes:

(See the end of the chapter for [notes \(#chapter_2_endnotes\)](#).)

"I'm telling you guys, something happened when we were gone." Jay whispered, his face resting on Cole's shoulder.

Cole sighed from next to him, "We figured that much ourselves you dummy, the question is-what exactly." He said, equally quiet. "Also, your breath stinks"

Jay made an offended noise, but before he had a chance to respond, Zane interrupted.

"Kai did not seem angry or aggravated in any way, so I do not think an argument took place." He stated calmly, seated on the opposite couch from Cole and Jay.

Nya nodded, "yeah and Lloyd didn't sound angry, so it's definitely not it." She hummed, trying to think of another reason why both of her brothers didn't want to talk, or join them at dinner.

When they got back home earlier, the sight they encountered was... interesting, to say the least.

Kai was anxiously sitting on the couch, oblivious to the arrival of the other ninja, with his hands held together over his mouth, his leg bouncing up and down, Lloyd nowhere in sight.

When Kai finally realized he had company, he quickly stood up. "Oh he- hey guys! Didn't notice you there! Uh- how was the trip? Good? Great! I made dinner earlier, you just have to heat it up a little ok?"

He hurriedly grabbed his jacket and went past the group towards the front door, "Don't wait for me I have to, uhh... go buy food! for the chicken! Right! Ok! SeeyaLatERByE-" And Kai was gone.

They started after him.

Jay spoke first. "Ok... That was super weird." He looked at the rest of the ninja. "Right? You guys saw him being weird?"

"Yes Jay, we did." Cole muttered out.

Pixal nodded, "Affirmative. He did not even take his wallet with him."

Nya looked confused, then remembered something else. "Kai's weirdness aside, where is Lloyd?" She asked.

The four looked in the direction of Lloyd's room, and slowly made their way over.

Cole knocked on the door. "Hey Lloyd, we're back! Is everything ok??"

They heard a squeaky noise coming from behind the door, followed by Lloyd's normal voice, "Yeah, yeah, yeah everything's great! I was just- uh sleeping! Also I already ate so, I'll just, go back to sleep ok? OK! Thanks!"

Cole glanced confusedly at the other three, and after receiving confused stares back, he answered. "Okayyy, goodnight I guess.."

The four confused ninja quietly made their way back to the kitchen, even more clueless than before.

Kai wanted to wait a little before confronting Lloyd on the rather....sensitive topic.

So he decided to make dinner. He himself wasn't particularly hungry, and Lloyd definitely ate all that candy in one sitting,

but the others were going to be hungry, and cooking is a great way to destress, and sort out his thoughts, so he doesn't barge in Lloyd's room like an emotional mess.

He still has an image to uphold, thank you very much.
After half an hour, the dinner was ready.
Only then did Kai made his way over to the green ninja's room.
Earlier, he was so sure of what he was going to say.
Now? Standing in front of Lloyd's room, all that confidence evaporated faster than he could blink.
With his hand hovering between himself and the door, Kai realized he didn't actually know what to say.
He momentarily panicked.
What exactly is he supposed to say to a teenager who clearly sees him as a parental figure, while keeping in mind said teenager has major daddy issues?!
Kai slowly inhales, trying to calm down.
Now he can see, it's a little different from Nya, mainly, she didn't remember thier parents the way Lloyd remembers his dad.
Even though it was a long time ago, Lloyd did have a good relationship with his father. Before he was resurrected, that is.
But before Kai could think about it any longer, a very fake sounding snore interrupted him, coming from Lloyd's room. He must have heard Kai behind the door.
Ah, so he really didn't want to talk about it.
With an almost silent sigh, Kai quietly made his way back to the living room, and collapsed on the couch.
What if Lloyd didn't actually see him as that, and he was just reading into everything too much-
-Maybe when they were in the kitchen he said or did something Gramadon used to do-
-Lloyd just got confused, because of the pain meds for his leg, or, or-
Kai shook his head, banishing the thoughts from his mind. It's okay, deep breaths, you're thinking about it too much, clam down.
He'll just wait out here for a little longer, yeah, that's a good idea.

It's been three hours.
Kai was still sitting on the damn couch.
He wasn't scared of going to Lloyd's room. No, of course not!
He just, uh, lost track of time, spiraling deeper into his anxieties and doubts.
Kai's back felt stiff from sitting in one position for so long.
He needed to get out. Outside. Breath in some fresh air, yada yada.
He was just waiting for the others to come back, so Lloyd wouldn't be left alone.
Kai groaned miserably. He was not scared to go confront Lloyd.
He wasn't.
After a couple more minutes in his own misery, he noticed the guys coming in the room.
Kai didn't even hear them until now.
He scurried off the couch. "Oh he- hey guys! Didn't notice you there! Uh- how was the trip? Good? Great! I made dinner earlier, you just have to heat it up a little ok?" He ignored their confused glances.
"Don't wait for me I have to, uhh... go buy food! for the chicken! Right! Ok! SeeyaLatERByE-"
As soon as he closed the door behind him, he took off running down the stairs, trying to put as much distance between himself and the very uncomfortable conversation that would eventually have to take place.
He won't be gone for long, just to blow off some steam, he'll be back in no time.

Notes:

I really want it to be three chapters, so I'll try to finish it as quickly as I can.

Chapter 3 (<http://archiveofourown.org/works/39483225/chapters/99320334>): **Talking things out**

Summary:

Lloyd can't avoid Kai forever. Time to address the elephant in the room.

Notes:

(See the end of the chapter for [notes \(#chapter_3_endnotes\)](#).)

Lloyd loved Garmadon.

Even now, after everything, he still cared for him.

Though, it wasn't the same anymore. How could it be? Garmadon was changed. Brought back from the dead.

Brought back wrong

But Lloyd couldn't hate him.

He could be however, absolutely and rightfully pissed at him, and Lloyd made it explicitly clear that he didn't trust Garmadon in the slightest.

Lloyd himself didn't know what his father thought of him. Not that he could ask, since, you know, Gramadon left. Again.

In the end, that's what Garmadon always did. What everyone always did.

Left Lloyd behind.

Of course, logically, Lloyd knew most of his father's absence was not intentional, but still, it hurt.

It always hurt so much.

Lloyd can recall so many restless nights, full of nightmares, tormenting him, threatening to drown him.

During those nights, he desperately wished his father was there to comfort him, wipe away his tears, tell him it's okay, that things will be better.

But every time, Garmadon wasn't there.

Someone else was though.

A pair of warm hands, ready to gently wipe his tears away, to affectionately ruffle his hair, strong arms to hug him and comfort him and protect him from the horrors of the life chosen for him.

Every time, Kai was there.

He was as much of a father as he was an older brother. And Lloyd couldn't be more thankful, for having such an amazing person be a constant presence in his life.

They had some rough moments, I mean, what family hasn't? But that's okay. Those moments only made their relationship stronger over time.

But, after today, Lloyd feared their relationship might never be the same.

He didn't mean to call Kai dad. Not out loud, at least.

Yes, he did see Kai as a father figure, but he never said it to his face, only ever addressing him as such in his head.

But the pain meds got to his head, made his tongue loose, and, and Kai wasn't helping! Acting all parent-like and shit!

It slipped out. There. There's nothing he can do about that other than hide away in his room, (like the coward you are-) and pray to his grandfather that Kai doesn't hate him now.

Lloyd knows he can't hide forever. No matter how much he dreads the upcoming conversation that will, no doubt take place soon.

Lloyd sighs, and with all the confidence that he does not have, steps out of the room.

Kai left the monastery.

Which, could mean two things.

One, he now hates Lloyd so much that he couldn't stand to be in the same building as him-

-...ok, that's a completely ridiculous assumption, but! Don't judge him, he's very stressed.

And two, a much more realistic option, he got bored of waiting for Lloyd to get his shit together, and went for a walk.

Lloyd just had to find him now.

Honestly, that's way better than having to talk to Kai and have the others listening from behind the door.

They're all ridiculously noisy.

Lloyd continued up the trail, the evening air biting but not quite cold yet.

The sky is slowly fading from a sea of reds, oranges and pinks, to a bluish gray.

It's really beautiful.

He hopes he's not mistaken, heading over to that one small clearing on top of the closest mountain, with an absolutely mesmerizing view, still washed over the light of the setting sun, well into the late hours.

Kai'll probably be there. Lloyd always goes there to clear his mind, and he has no doubt Kai took a liking to the spot from the many times he had to go and find him.

After a couple of minutes of walking, he finally made it to the top, where he could indeed see Kai, sitting down close to the edge.

Lloyd was silent, he didn't want to alert him of his presence yet.

Yes, he came here to talk, but at the moment he is very stressed out, please let him have this.

He looked back at the figure in red. Even with his back turned, Lloyd could imagine the 'lost in thoughts but actually full of anxiety' expression Kai had.

Lloyd had the same look on his face right now, after all.

"I know you're there kid,"

Lloyd jumped, curse Kai and his ninja skills!

Kai didn't turn around, he just patted the space next to him.

Lloyd took a breath, and made his way over to the red ninja, and cautiously sat next to him, not close enough to be touching.

Here it goes nothing.

"About earlier-"

"Kid, listen I -

Thier voices overlapped, and they both paused and chuckled softly, shifting to a slightly less awkward atmosphere.

Kai inclined his head, gesturing for Lloyd to go first.

"Well, uh,..about earlier, I'm sorry,...I hope I didn't... damage what we had before, it's just..." Lloyd paused, hyper aware of Kai watching him, waiting for him to continue.

'You got this, Lloyd, time for the truth, you can't back out now.'

"I've considered you an older brother for a long time now. And you always acted like one towards me, I'm honored to have someone like you be by my side..." He fiddled with the string of his hoodie nervously, already feeling his eyes water.

"Though, after some time, I realized that you also became my parent along the way." Lloyd heard the sharp intake of air coming from his right, but he didn't dare to turn around, he had a hard time keeping his tears at bay already, looking at Kai will surely make him bawl his eyes out.

"I'm, I'm just, it's- it's weird, saying it out loud after all this time, but- I want you to know, I consider you to be both my brother and my father, you've been there for me, through all those years when I needed you, so-"

Lloyd finally looked up at Kai, tears slowly dripping down his face "Whatever happens after this, just know that- that I love you, and, I'm so grateful to have you-ack!"

Being tackled in a hug was not something knew when it came to Kai, but still, it took Lloyd by surprise, suddenly falling back on the ground, having his face squished into Kai's chest.

He could hear Kai crying, and feel his chest shuddering with every inhale.

Lloyd couldn't take it anymore.

His tears soaked Kai's shirt, and he desperately tightened his hold on him, he sobs with relief at Kais barely cohesive words:

"-love you so much, this doesn't change anything, I still love you -" he sniffles, trying to stop his tears to no avail. "I always considered you my kid, whether as a little brother or a son, -it, it doesn't matter, the love is still the same-"

Lloyd laughed, almost hysterically, "-and here I was, afraid that somehow, you would hate me now-"

Kai shook his head, his voice stronger than before "Never. I would never hate you, especially not for something like this" he tightened his hold on Lloyd, as much as was possible without crushing him.

Lloyd made a little noise, as quiet as it was, Kai could identify it as a happy noise.

They stayed like that for a while, finally at peace.

Kai shifted a little bit, while still keeping Lloyd close to his chest. "Hey, wanna hear about the times Nya called me both 'dad' and 'mom'?"

Lloyd nodded his head so fast he got dizzy.

Kai laughed, feeling happier than ever before.

Notes:

Welp! Here it is! I hope you enjoy this quick fic I wrote on my phone in the middle of the night!

Notes:

Hope you enjoyed!

Close (#).